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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,544	10/17/2001	Ira G. Schulman	509132000100	7779

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EXAMINER

KAM, CHIH MIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1653

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/982,544

Applicant(s)

SCHULMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Chih-Min Kam

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) 1-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U. S. C. 121:

I. Claims 1-3, drawn to a method for elevating the plasma level of high density lipoprotein (HDL) in a mammal, comprising administering an HDL-elevating LXR β selective agonist, classified in class 514, subclass 604, and class 435, subclass 7.1.

Should Group I be elected, applicant is required to select one additional active agent from claim 2. Each active agent is considered patentably distinct because each agent is structurally different, and has different function and utility. This is not species election.

II. Claim 4, drawn to a method of decreasing the absorption of dietary cholesterol in the intestine of a mammal, comprising administering an absorption-decreasing LXR β selective agonist, classified in class 514, subclass 604, and class 435, subclass 7.1.

III. Claims 5 and 6, drawn to a method of elevating HDL-associated gene expression in a cell, comprising administering an LXR β selective agonist to the cell, classified in class 435, subclasses 6 and 325.

IV. Claims 7-9, drawn to a method for decreasing the plasma level of low density lipoprotein (LDL) in a mammal, comprising administering an LDL-decreasing LXR β selective agonist, classified in class 514, subclass 604, and class 435, subclass 7.1.

V. Claims 10-12, drawn to a method of identifying an LXR β selective agonist by testing the candidate compound in a cell-based or biochemical assay, classified in class 435, subclasses 7.1 and 325.

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VI. Claims 13-26, drawn to a method for treating a metabolic disease in a mammal, comprising administering an LXR β selective agonist, classified in class 514, subclass 604, and class 435, subclass 7.1.

Should Group VI be elected, applicant is required to select one disease from claim 14, 20, 21 or 24. Each disease is considered patentably distinct because the diagnosis for each disease is different, and each disease has different treatment and outcome.

Applicant is also required to select one additional active agent from claim 16, 23 or 26. Each active agent is considered patentably distinct because each agent is structurally different, and has different function and utility. This is not species election.

VII. Claims 27 and 28, drawn to a method of identifying an LXR α selective antagonist by testing the candidate compound in a cell-based or biochemical assay, classified in class 435, subclasses 7.1 and 325.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The methods of Inventions I-VII are distinct from each other because each Invention has different method steps, uses different materials and produces different outcome.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by the recognized divergent subject matter, and because Inventions I-VII require different searches but are not co-extensive, examination of these distinct inventions would pose a serious burden on the examiner and therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Min Kam whose telephone number is (703) 308-9437. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low, Ph. D. can be reached on (703) 308-2923. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0294 for regular communications and (703) 308-4227 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Chih-Min Kam, Ph. D. *CMK*
Patent Examiner

Karen Cochran Carlson, Ph.D.
KAREN COCHRANE CARLSON, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

September 7, 2002